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Date: 9/14/2016 1:23:07 PM
Subject: City just announced a new blight reduction-work plan for homeless a la Lifeline to Success model

From Mayor Strickland's Social Media Account

Mayor Jim Strickland Like Page

2 hrs ·

In Memphis, we must do everything we can to make sure every single member of our community has the opportunity to lift themselves up from their circumstances in search of a better life.

So today, I am proud to announce a partnership with the Hospitality HUB of Memphis that will seek to lift up homeless men and women in Memphis by providing opportunities to work on cleaning up blight and litter in the city.

The Hospitality HUB, a nonprofit hospitality, counseling and resource center for homeless persons, will administer the project, which we've been working on since the earliest days of our administration.

Under the partnership, the Hospitality HUB will transport job-seeking panhandlers to cleanup sites twice a week, where they will work to reduce urban blight throughout the city. Workers are provided with food, a day's wages (\$9 an hour), and additional services and counseling as needed. The program focuses on three goals: providing a safer way to earn more than panhandling, connecting people who panhandle with available services and resources to move them toward brighter futures, and contributing to cleaning up Memphis.

The partnership is modeled after a similar program in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that has received national attention. Members of the Hospitality HUB team and my team have been in contact with Albuquerque leaders to learn best practices to bring to Memphis.

The partnership will start as a pilot program this fall, with plans to make it permanent in the coming years. It is budgeted at \$140,000 this year. Much of the funds will come from the city's City of Memphis Public Works Division. Donations from the Downtown Memphis Commission and the Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau are helping fund the initiative, and the Hospitality HUB is also working with First Presbyterian Church - Memphis, Tennessee and Calvary Episcopal Church.

The goal is to sustain the program in coming years using private support. Want to support? You can contribute at the link below.

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